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LB 305

down into teacher salaries, if we could just move it from one area to another, we would have money to pay our teachers more. I am going to oppose this. I'm going to continue my support on LB 305, because I think this is the year. We are years behind in doing this. I know it's going to be a tax increase. But also, you know, there's a nursing shortage. We need to assist them. And I don't know what other groups are going to come before us looking for assistance. But right now we need to look at teachers, schools across the state, and let's settle one problem at a time and see what comes to us in the future. Thank you, sir.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Price. Senator Hilgert on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Jones, I just wanted to comment on one thing that you said. And I understand your frustration and your concern about money involved in public advocacy projects. But I will observe that the television commercials that Nebraskans saw put out by the NSEA regarding this issue, I think a lot of it came from the NEA. National Education Association helped fund those commercials. All of the money that the NEA spends in these type of efforts are purely voluntary type...a checkoff type deal. Furthermore, the...all the money that state senators or candidates, because not all of them get elected, Jim, as you know, all that money that candidates get, the member of the NSEA can request that that money be given back to them. So this is a completely voluntary thing. I don't want to...and I know that you weren't going here, but I wouldn't want Nebraskans to think that the advertising campaign that you saw encouraging Nebraskans to support our public school teachers was not somehow taken from the salaries involuntarily of our public school teachers, nor in any way from those districts and so forth, that this was an effort that was completely voluntary by the teachers and for the teachers, and more importantly, for our children in Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Anybody else wishing to speak to the Bourne amendment? Seeing no lights, Senator Bourne, do you wish to close? You're recognized to